

The mandatory hardware lockouts proposed in the "broadcast flag" rule are directly contrary to the rights of American citizens. The public airwaves belong to the public, and their use is granted to various entities by public consent.

This ruling would do little or nothing to prevent copyright infringement. Those who truly want to make "bootleg" copies of digital broadcasts have the necessary tools to defeat any mechanism in the Broadcast Flag Proposal.

However, it would trample on the rights of ordinary citizens to time-shift their television viewing (a right upheld by the US Supreme Court, I believe). The only ones who benefit are the mass-media corporations, who will attempt to sell the same content multiple times (such as pay-per-view, time-limited DVDs, etc).

This is a bad ruling for the American people.